



**For Immediate Release
April 7, 2006**

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**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
HOLDS EARTH DAY EVENTS SATURDAY APRIL 22nd**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will be celebrating Earth Day (Saturday, April 22), with numerous events held at its properties throughout the Commonwealth. Activities range from volunteer clean-ups to hikes, live animal demonstrations and music. All are welcome to attend!

Earth Day began in 1970 as a nationwide public demonstration and “teach-in” on the environment. It has become a worldwide event, both a celebration of the environments in which we live, and a day to reflect on the delicate balance of nature. Grassroots organizations use the day to raise awareness, organize participatory events, and educate people on environmental issues.

DCR Earth Day Events 2006

**Belle Isle Marsh Spring Clean Up
Saturday, April 22, 9:00 a.m.**

Meet at Morton Street in Winthrop

Help DCR and the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh clean up the Reservation. Refreshments will be provided. No registration required. This event is organized and run by Geoff Wood (617-727-5350), who is the Park Supervisor for Belle Isle Marsh, along with the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh.

**Breakheart Reservation – Hiking Club
Saturday, April 22, call for time**

Meet at the Visitor Center off Lynn Fells Parkway in Saugus

Although not intentionally coinciding with the Earth Day holiday, the weekly Hiking Club at Breakheart Reservation falls on April 22. It will be a 2-hour moderate hike. For more information, call Mike Nelsone at 781-233-0834.

**Celebrate Earth Day at Great Blue Hill
Saturday, April 22, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Meet at the Blue Hills Trailside Museum at 1904 Canton Avenue in Milton

Join the fun as we celebrate the great outdoors. DCR Rangers and naturalists from Mass
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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Mitt Romney
Governor

Kerry Healey
Lt. Governor

Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Stephen H. Burrington, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Audubon will host a day of environmental activities, live animal discovery and outdoor exploration. Learn about your wild neighbors and who lives in your backyard! We'll have nature programs and special activities all day. At 1:00 p.m., there will be a hike up Great Blue Hill, the most popular trail in the Blue Hills. Enjoy a panoramic view from the summit. Moderately strenuous hike over rocky terrain, 1.5 hours. Indoor museum activities free for Mass Audubon members. All activities included in regular admission for general public. For more information, call 617-333-0690 or DCR Ranger Maggi Brown at 617-727-4573.

Earth Day Coffee House at WBNERR

Saturday, April 22, 8:00 p.m.

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR) in Falmouth

Join us at the Reserve to hear local musicians celebrate the Earth. Performers include: John and Rachel Nicholas, Jeff Schwartz, Hugh O'Doherty and Denny Williams. The coffeehouse is sponsored by the Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay and helps support educational programs here at the Reserve. Coffee and refreshments will be provided. Admission price is \$10, which includes a complimentary Waquoit Bay mug! If you bring your own mug, admission is only \$5! For information call Laurie Tompkins, 508-457-0495 ext. 108.

Whitehall State Park Spring Clean Up

Saturday, April 22, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

Meet at boat launch area

Join us in Hopkinton to get Whitehall ready for summer! Bring work gloves and trash bags. Sponsored by Friends of Whitehall State Park. For more information, contact Ken Johnson at kenjj02@hotmail.com.

Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park

Sunday, April 23, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Meet at River Bend Farm Visitor Center

The Spring Cleanup of the canal and towpath trail is sponsored by members of the local Unitarian/Universalist Church.

Earth Day Cleanup of Blackstone River Bike Path

Saturday, April 22, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (8:30 a.m. registration at Millbury Senior Center)

Cleanup will include the Millbury segment and the proposed route to Sutton.

Upton State Forest Earth Day Cleanup

Sunday, April 23, 9:00 a.m.

Meet at old headquarters building for registration

This cleanup is sponsored by the Bay State Trail Riders and the Friends of Upton State Forest.

Earth Day Clean-up Program at Wendell State Forest

Saturday, April 22, 9:00 a.m.

Meet at forest headquarters, 392 Montague Road, Wendell

This volunteer work day is sponsored by DCR in partnership with the North-East Chevy/GMC Truck Club. The Northeast Mountain Bike Association and several Boy Scout troops will also be pitching in, and any interested citizens will all be pitching in. Volunteers should bring a lunch, water and gloves. Projects will include, raking, staining of headquarters building and stone wall building, installation of split rail fencing, flower bed planting and general cleanup of park. Come join the fun and fresh air. For additional information call 413-659-3797 or email Wendell.Forest@state.ma.us.

Earth Day events at Halibut Point State Park in Rockport

The Friends of Halibut Point are sponsoring Earth Day events at the park throughout the month of May under the heading of "May Is Earth Day."

May 6, 10:00 a.m. – Blue Bird presentation with Lillian Files at the Visitor Center

May 13, 9:00 a.m. – Coastal Cleanup on the park's shoreline

May 20, 1:00 p.m. – Moths by Porch Light with Richard Wolniwicz at the Visitor Center

May 27, 10:00 a.m. – Quarry Tour with the park interpreter

For more information, call 978-546-2997.

Maudslay State Park 19th Annual Arbor/Earth Day Program

Saturday, May 6, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers are sought to help pick up trash along the 1.75 mile Merrimack River shoreline at the park and to help reopen a lost vista along one of the park's prominent overlooks.

Seedlings will be provided by the Maudslay State Park Association and refreshments will be served to all participants. Volunteers can come anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. For more information, call 978-465-7223.

Annual Charles River Watershed Association Charles River Clean Up

Saturday, April 29, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Charles River Watershed Association is sponsoring the 7th Annual River Clean-Up on the Esplanade. A cookout will take place at Herter Park after the event. Contact Pattie Provenzano (617-626-1414) or Richard Scott (617-727-1058) for more information.

WBOS 92.9-FM Earthfest

Saturday, May 27, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

This free event will be held at the Hatch Memorial Shell on the Esplanade. Bring the whole family for a day of fun, food and great music!

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